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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/450,384	11/29/1999	MARK A. MARS	11141.80952	7554

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EXAMINER

CHIANG, JACK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

18

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/450384

Applicant(s)

Nars et al.

Examiner

J. Liang

Group Art Unit

2642

#16

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE -3- MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1-29-04.
- ☒ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-16 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-16 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
- ☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

CLAIMS

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pferd et al. (US 3112147) in view of Ellsworth (US 240980).

Regarding claim 1, Pferd shows:

A front substantially planar surface (20);

At least one pair of punch down terminal strips (11), each terminal strip includes a first termination area (first 12-16 in fig. 1) and a plurality of additional termination area (see 13a, 17 in fig. 1), each termination area of a particular punch down terminal strip is electrically coupled in series by the particular punch down terminal strip to every other termination area of the same punch down terminal strip (see 11 in fig. 1).

Pferd differs from the claimed invention in that it does not show input-wire-pair labeling region and output-wire-pair-destination-labeling region, such as labeling region in line with the wire pairs and labeling region located laterally with the wire pairs, in other words, row and column labeling.

However, Ellsworth teaches providing a row and column labeling (G, H in fig. 1) of the input-wire-pair labeling region (i.e. H) and output-wire-pair-destination-labeling region (i.e. G) on the front surface of a connector block, and the output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions (JONES, SMITH, POE) that are laid out along an axis that is

substantially transverse to an axis along which a plurality of input wire pairs (3, and label on left side of 3) is labeled.

Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to modify Pferd with a row and column labeling of the wire pairs as taught by Ellsworth, this is commonly seen in the communication terminals, such as the labeling of the wire pairs to indicate the specific types of functions for the lines, or where the pair of wires go, shown by Ellsworth, the advantage of such labeling is to aid the technician to identify the pairs, to install or repair the wire pairs (col. 1, lines 7-11 in Ellsworth).

Regarding claim 11, Pferd shows the steps of:

Connecting a plurality of paired input wire to a plurality of pairs of terminal strip (i.e. first 12-16 in fig. 1)

Connecting a plurality of paired output wires (13a, 17 in fig. 1) to each of the plurality of pairs of terminal strips;

Pferd differs from the claimed invention in that it does not show input-wire-pair labeling region and output-wire-pair-destination-labeling region, such as labeling region in line with the wire pairs and labeling region located laterally with the wire pairs, in other words, row and column labeling.

However, Ellsworth teaches providing a row and column labeling (G, H in fig. 1) of the input-wire-pair labeling region (i.e. H) and output-wire-pair-destination-labeling region (i.e. G) on the front surface of a connector block, and the output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions (JONES, SMITH, POE) that are laid out along an axis that is

substantially transverse to an axis along which a plurality of input wire pairs (3, and label on left side of 3) is labeled.

Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to modify Pferd with a row and column labeling of the wire pairs as taught by Ellsworth, this is commonly seen in the communication terminals, such as the labeling of the wire pairs to indicate the specific types of functions for the lines, or where the pair of wires go, shown by Ellsworth, the advantage of such labeling is to aid the technician to identify the pairs, to install or repair the wire pairs (col. 1, lines 7-11 in Ellsworth).

Regarding claim 14, Pferd shows the steps of:

Connecting a plurality of paired input wire to a plurality of pairs of terminal strip (i.e. first 12-16 in fig. 1)

Connecting a plurality of paired output wires (13a, 17 in fig. 1) to each of the plurality of pairs of terminal strips;

Pferd differs from the claimed invention in that it does not show input-wire-pair labeling region and output-wire-pair-destination-labeling region, such as labeling region in line with the wire pairs and labeling region located laterally with the wire pairs, in other words, row and column labeling.

However, Ellsworth teaches providing a row and column labeling (G, H in fig. 1) of the input-wire-pair labeling region (i.e. H) and output-wire-pair-destination-labeling region (i.e. G) on the front surface of a connector block, and the output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions (JONES, SMITH, POE) that are laid out along an axis that is

substantially transverse to an axis along which a plurality of input wire pairs (3, and label on left side of 3) is labeled.

Hence, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to modify Pferd with a row and column labeling of the wire pairs as taught by Ellsworth, this is commonly seen in the communication terminals, such as the labeling of the wire pairs to indicate the specific types of functions for the lines, or where the pair of wires go, shown by Ellsworth, the advantage of such labeling is to aid the technician to identify the pairs, to install or repair the wire pairs (col. 1, lines 7-11 in Ellsworth).

Regarding claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-13, 14-15, the combination of Pferd and Ellsworth shows:

A wire channel or wire channel hook (see wire channels in fig. 2 in Pferd) which also bundles wires;

The wire channel is located between two pairs of punch down strips (see wire channel and wires in fig. 2);

The wire channel separates a first two pairs of strips from a second pair of strips (see the two channel next to each other in fig. 2);

One tie-wire ring for bundling wires (such as top wire channel in fig. 2);

The strip and insulation (11, 20); and

The labeling (Fig. 1 in Ellsworth, see comments in claim 1).

ARGUMENT

3. In response to the remarks (pages 5-7), applicant mainly argues that the references (Verhagen) does not teach or suggest output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions that are laid out along an axis that is substantially transverse to an axis along which a plurality of input wire pairs is labeled. The examiner likes to comment that the idea of row and column labeling is well taught by Verhagen, although it does not explicitly mention "destination", however, it is dictated by the application of the switch panel and should be obvious for one skilled in the art. Although the examiner could have maintained the Verhagen rejection, however, to better meet the claimed languages, Verhagen is replaced by Ellsworth, see rejection above.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 8-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 2642

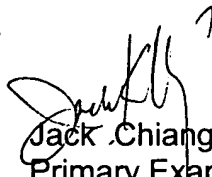
the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack Chiang whose telephone number is 703-305-4728.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 8:00 to 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on 703-305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jack Chiang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2642